

May, 2020

Dear Rising Sixth Graders,

I am so excited to be your teacher next year! I have been teaching history in the 7th and 8th grade this past semester and have met many of you already. I look forward to teaching each of you in literature and writing next fall.

We will start the year with a project on the assigned summer reading book, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien. To be ready for the project, you need to read the book carefully. In this packet, you have a list of questions to answer – one for each chapter. The instructions for answering are on the question sheet. Please pay careful attention to the instructions.

In addition, you will read at least two books from the list I've given you. For each of these books, you will write a short paragraph that answers four questions. I hope these three books are just the beginning of your summer reading. I would also like for you to write the title and author of any book you LOVED on the back of the of the sheet of book suggestions in this packet.

Summer is a great time to take advantage of the public library. The library is currently closed due to COVID-19 but I am hopeful that it will reopen this summer. In the meantime, they have many online resources that I encourage you to check out. When the library reopens, I will expect everyone to have a county library card and to know your PIN. This enables you to take advantage of services like ordering books online.

Short List of Summer Assignments:

- 1. Read *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* and answer the chapter questions.**
- 2. Read two additional books from the list and answer the questions in a paragraph for each book.**
- 3. Read a lot of other books. Keep up your reading habit! And write down your favorites! I love hearing about books students loved!**
- 4. Get a public library card if you don't have one. Know your PIN.**

I am so happy that I will be back on campus with you in the fall, and I can't wait to hear all about your summer adventures through books and activities!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Spencer

"I like books that aren't just lovely but that have memories in themselves. Just like playing a song, picking up a book again that has memories can take you to another place or another time."

–Emma Watson

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

Instructions:

1. There is a question for each chapter in the book.
2. Answer each question in a few sentences. Give as much detail as needed.
3. Use a separate page for each question (front and back is fine).
4. Write the title of the chapter at the top of the page.

Hint: Place a check mark by each questions as you complete it.

Chapter Title	Chapter Question (Prompt)
The Sickness of Timothy Frisby	Every story begins with a problem. What are some of the problems Mrs. Frisby confronts in this chapter?
Mr. Ages	What do we learn about Mr. Ages in this chapter? What are some character traits you observe?
The Crow and the Cat	Mrs. Frisby says, "We all help one another against the cat." How do Mrs. Frisby and Jeremy help each other?
Mr. Fitzgibbon's Plow	Explain what Moving Day is for the mice and why Mrs. Frisby doesn't want Moving Day to come yet.
Five Days	Mrs. Frisby sees some puzzling things in this chapter. What are they?
A Favor from Jeremy	Mrs. Frisby has some fears about Jeremy's plan. Why does she decide to do it in spite of her fears?
The Owl	Draw a picture of the way the ground looks to Mrs. Frisby from Jeremy's back. Follow the description in this chapter.
"Go to the Rats"	How does the owl's behavior change when he learns Mrs. Frisby's name?
In the Rosebush	What and whom did Mrs. Frisby find in the rosebush?
Brutus	How does Mrs. Frisby manage NOT to be throw out by Brutus? Why do you think he is so eager to get rid of her?
In the Library	What are some of the surprising things Mrs. Frisby sees in this chapter?
Isabella	Make a bullet list of information Mrs. Frisby learns from her talk with Isabella.
A Powder for Dragon	Do you agree with the decision Mrs. Frisby makes in this chapter? Why or why not?

The Marketplace	The story now flashes back to the early life of the rats. Where did they live and how did they get their food before they were captured?
In the Cage	Identify Jenner, Dr. Shultz, Julie, George, and NIMH.
The Maze	What is the purpose of the experiments that are being performed on the rats? Do you think the experiments are cruel? Why or why not?
A Lesson in Reading	What was the end result of the reading lessons for the rats?
The Air Ducts	How did the rats meet Jonathan Frisby?
The Boniface Estate	In what ways did the rats benefit from their time at the Boniface Estate?
The Main Hall	This chapter is not part of the flashback. Describe the activities in the main hall.
The Toy Tinker	What did the rats decide about their future before they left the Boniface Estate?
Thorn Valley	Why did Nicodemus and some of the rats grow dissatisfied with their comfortable life on Mr. Fitzgibbon's farm?
Captured	Why did Jenner and his six companions leave the farm?
Seven Dead Rats	Mrs. Frisby hears some important news in the Fitzgibbons' kitchen. What does she learn?
Escape	What did you learn about the rats from the way they move Mrs. Frisby's house?
At the Meeting	What are some clues that suggest that the scientists from NIMH are on the trail of the escaped rats?
The Doctor	Why did the doctor hope to capture some live rats?
Epilogue	Why do you think Mrs. Frisby wanted her children to know the whole story of their father, the rats, and her adventure?

Summer Reading for Rising Sixth Grade

Required reading: *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien

Two additional books required from the following list:

Genre	Book Choices
Fantasy	<i>The Book of Three</i> by Lloyd Alexander <i>Things Not Seen</i> by Andrew Clements <i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i> by Kelly Barnhill <i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman <i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead
Historical Fiction	<i>Catherine Called Birdy</i> by Karen Cushman <i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i> by Karen Cushman <i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i> by Adam Gidwitz <i>Chains</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson -If you have read <i>Chains</i> , you might read <i>Forge</i> or <i>Ashes</i> , the other books in the trilogy. <i>Wolf Hollow</i> by Lauren Wolk <i>The War that Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley <i>Refugee</i> by Alan Gratz
Realistic Fiction	<i>The One and Only Ivan</i> by Katherine Applegate <i>See You at Harry's</i> by Jo Knowles <i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds <i>Wonderstruck</i> by Brian Selznick <i>Loser</i> by Jeri Spinelli <i>The Running Dream</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park
Mystery	<i>Chasing Vermeer</i> by Blue Balliett <i>If the Witness Lied</i> by Carline B. Cooney <i>The London Eye Mystery</i> by Siobhan Dowd
Novel in Verse	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai <i>Listen, Slowly</i> by Thanhha Lai

TOTAL REQUIRED READING = 3 BOOKS! But I hope you read and enjoy so many more.

Written response for book choices from this list: For each book, write a paragraph that answers these questions:

1. Who is the protagonist (main character) of this book?
2. What is the worst problem the protagonist faces?
3. How does the protagonist change between the beginning and the end of the story?
4. What has he/she learned from struggling with the problem?

Name:
Section:
Date:

Summer Reading Grading Rubric

The following will be weighted as a project grade.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien

Chapters	Teacher Comments
28 questions were assigned for this book. One for each of the chapters and the Epilogue. Credit Earned: _____/28	

2 Additional Books – Summer Reading Student Choice

	Grade	Teacher Comments
Book:	4 questions were asked. Credit Earned: _____/100	
	4 questions were asked. Credit Earned: _____/100	

Books I loved from the summer of 2020!!

Title	Author	One Reason